

Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee Minutes September 21, 2010

Attendance: Lynn Grabowski, Karen Kowles, Peter Lillya, Fran VanTreese, Eve Vogel, Glenn Barrington (UMass Transit), David Elvin (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission working with PVRTA), Richard Roznoy (Planning Board), Walter Wolnik (guest).

David Elvin reported that the **PVRTA website has video instructions for use of bike racks**. David will ask PVRTA to print 1-piece schedules for route 32 so the Town will no longer need to print bookmark schedules.

Glenn Barrington reported that **ridership on rte. 32** for July & August exceeded that of the previous year by 721 or 15%.

Meeting came to order at 4:10 pm, Town Room, Town Hall

Minutes for the meetings of 7/13/10 and 8/17/10 (as amended) were approved.

The Committee discussed the **“on-road” bike path versus separate multipurpose path** question. Motorists pulling out of or into crossing driveways can compromise rider safety of cyclists on multi-purpose paths. Motorists, with their eyes on vehicle traffic, usually assume that path users will see them and yield. This is not practical for riders at speed. The problem is sufficiently severe on the “Swiftway” that many riders choose to ride on University Drive.

The Committee will continue to consider this problem particularly in the context of the Transportation & circulation section of the town Master Plan.

There was a consensus that **extension of the sidewalk on the east side of East Pleasant St. from Strong St. north to Pine St.** is intrinsically desirable and a logical extension of the **Wildwood Elementary Safe Routes to School Project**. Time limitation forced tabling of this issue until the October meeting.

The Committee discussed ways it might contribute to the transportation section of the Town Master Plan, probably in the form of suggestions to professional planners. Richard Roznoy suggested that the plan might take the form of a map of the transportation system 10 years and 40 years from now. He suggested that one of the key benefits of planning is to identify attractive strategies and incorporate them into a plan to avoid their foreclosure by development.

The Committee might propose that the Town fund a professionally-developed plan.

Next meeting is Tu 19 Oct at 4 pm.

Meeting **adjourned** at 6pm

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Lillya